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**What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatic Inc**[View this email in your browser](#)

### Newsletter #3:

#### **What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.**

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Hello everyone! I hope you all had a nice week. The numismatic auction market for ancients is not as crazy as it was during New York auction week, but nonetheless there is still quite a bit going on.

#### **Online auctions**

The online auction market is one that more collectors are getting involved in. There are almost daily auctions that take place with ancient coins. These auction houses are located mainly in Europe and in the U.S. There are both advantages and disadvantages of online auctions. The biggest advantage of course are that many nice coins go "under the radar". The reason is that a lot of serious collectors either don't have the time or desire to pour through the literally hundreds of coins that are offered on a daily basis. From a dealer perspective, it gives me the ability to sometimes find affordable stock while not having to leave my home and spend money on travel.

The disadvantages are that viewing coins prior to the auction is not possible making buying certain metal types (i.e. bronze) incredibly difficult. That said, most auction houses would let you return material if it wasn't properly catalogued. The other disadvantage is that typically bidding in some of these auctions means getting up in the middle of the night or spending the day pinned to your computer. This is where an agent comes in! I offer my services for online auctions at 5% (most online auctions do not offer a dealer discount).

The sites where you can check out online ancient are [www.sixbid.com](http://www.sixbid.com) or [www.numisbid.com](http://www.numisbid.com). The two sites have a lot of auction company duplication but there are some that only use Sixbid and others Numisbid.

If you ever see a coin that interests you in these auctions or need help from me navigating your way through the auctions online, just ask! It's part of what I love to do and the services that I like to provide to my clients at a reasonable cost.

#### **CoinArchives Pro and Researching Coins**

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what they are buying. Of course most dealers might cringe see me promote the site CoinArchives Pro but I wouldn't be a good advocate for coin collecting if I didn't. Why do research? So many reasons but just a few are 1) understanding the current market prices for a coin and figuring out how much to bid on a coin 2) checking for the reality of a coin's rarity when so many catalogs overuse this adjective 3) researching for a coin's pedigree that was missed by the offering dealer and 4) looking for references.

A one year subscription to CoinArchives Pro is \$600 which is well worth the investment if you are serious about buying coins. All my customers know that part of what I do is research coins so I offer this with my services free of charge. This entails screen shots from CoinArchives Pro (I can't send a link unless you have a subscription). I'm happy to do this for anyone interested but know that this is something you can do yourself if you have the time and energy. Again, when I represent you in auction I will gladly share CoinArchives Pro information.

### Coin of the Week

The coin this week is a Year 2 Judaeen Jewish War Shekel. This offered coin is has a great strike, is nicely centered, pretty cabinet toning and a pedigree to match. The coin comes from a 1997 Sternberg Auction (Auction 33, 18 September 1997, lot 188). Frank Sternberg was a well respected dealer that was also in the auction business. He ran his auctions from Zurich, Switzerland from 1973-2000.

The First Jewish War began during the waning years of Nero's rule in 66 AD, with a series of pogroms in the Roman city of Caesarea in Palestine, which enticed Jewish radicals known as "Zealots" to seek power by force in Jerusalem and massacre the small Roman garrison in Judea. At this early stage, the uprising was mostly mob-driven and could most likely have been put down quickly had it not been for the incompetence of Roman commanders in the region, most notably Cestius Gallus, legatus of Syria, who brought a force of 30,000 men to invest Jerusalem and the temple mount by siege. Wholly unprepared for the affair and unnerved by Jewish resistance and the onset of winter, Gallus unadvisedly abandoned the assault and led his troops on a devastatingly costly retreat out of Palestine. News of the victory spread throughout the country and the rebellion, which, as has been mentioned heretofore, been a rather small insurrection, grew in scope and size and engulfed the entire Judean region. At this point the Zealots and the remaining moderates in Jerusalem mitigated their differences and formed a war-administration which, they hoped would free the new Jewish state from Roman intervention.

The Romans, however, did not suffer their defeat well, and the Emperor Nero made preparations for a full-scale war against the Jews in Palestine and Judea. He appointed T. Flavius Vespasianus (Vespasian), a man who was not in particularly good favor at the imperial court but was regarded as a well-respected soldier and commander, to take the Judean affair in hand. Granted a force exceeding 50,000 men, Vespasian made short work of Palestine. In 67 he reduced the Galilee and in 68 regained for the Romans all the Transjordanian lands which had sided with the rebels, thus leaving Judea proper isolated and the rebellion contained. At this point Vespasian suspended his campaign in Judaea on the pretext that since Nero had been deposed, he no longer held commission to continue to fight. In reality, however, Vespasian had set his sights on the throne, and, after defeating his rivals in the so styled "year of the four emperors" (69 AD), Vespasian became Emperor of Rome.

The Jews, however, did not take this interval of Roman inaction to secure their remaining holdings in Judea. Instead, the harmony between the Zealots and the moderates broke down into outright conflict, and disunity spread throughout their lands as moderates and Zealots came to open blows. With the legions ready,

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Titus and his troops dove deep into the heart of Judea, and invested Jerusalem with an overpowering force. Over the course of a six month hard-fought siege, the city was reduced to rubble. The grand temple of Herod the Great and the citadel fortress of Antonia on the temple mount were completely destroyed and the remaining population was sold into slavery. Only three rebel strongholds remained in Jewish hands: Herodium, Machaerus, and Masada. The third of these citadels famously survived a six month siege by the Romans under Flavius Silva, but despite valiant efforts, the nearly impenetrable fortress was captured and its defenders committed mass suicide. The Jewish state ceased to exist; Jewish priesthood was eviscerated along with the Sadducees; only the Pharisees remained intact. This group, unable to worship in the ancient manner, was reduced to the study of the Talmud and what would become Rabbinic Judaism.

The story of the First Jewish War is well known; it was chronicled by a first-hand observer known as Flavius Josephus, who surrendered to Vespasian and became a Roman citizen.

If you are interested in purchasing this coins, please click on this link:

<http://www.shannaschmidt.com/new-page-2/>

If you are interested in seeing other coins I have to offer, please click on this link:

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Until next week!

Shanna



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